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# DULLES DESCRIBES A NAZI SURRENDER

Allies Almost Blocked Secret  
Talk With Germans in Italy

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By M. S. HANDLER

An order by the Allied Joint Chiefs of Staff almost halted the secret negotiations that led to the surrender of German troops in Italy in 1945, Allen W. Dulles, who conducted the negotiations, has disclosed.

Mr. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, describes the incident in the second and final installment of "The Secret Surrender," in the August issue of Harper's magazine. The first installment of his account of the secret negotiations, which will be published in book form by Harper & Row, appeared in the July issue.

The elimination of the Italian front, Mr. Dulles says, had forced Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, the German commander on the Western Front, to request negotiations for the surrender of almost a million troops under his command. The surrender in Italy made the position of the battered German forces on the Western Front untenable.

Mr. Dulles relates that the Allied Joint Chiefs ordered the interruption of the secret negotiations when they seemed on the point of succeeding, but Field Marshal Alexander, the Allied commander in chief in Italy, interceded and convinced the Joint Chiefs to permit Mr. Dulles to proceed.

## Himmler Tried to Intervene

Mr. Dulles also relates that Heinrich Himmler and Ernst Kaltenbrunner tried to prevent an SS general, Karl Wolff, commander of the SS (Elite Guard) forces in Italy and initiator of the secret negotiations, from carrying them to fruition and how Wolff tricked them into silence.

Mr. Dulles describes the reconstructed scenes in Hitler's Berlin bunker where Wolff confronted the ill dictator and talked him out of suspicions that could have led to Wolff's execution.

Mr. Dulles also discloses the role of a Czech refugee radio operator by the name of Václav Hradecky whom Mr. Dulles had planted in Wolff's Bolzano, Italy, headquarters to serve as a secret communications clearing house.

Besides Mr. Dulles and General Wolff, the principal protagonists in the drama were Maj. Max Waibel, a Swiss military intelligence officer; Max

Husmann, the director of a private Swiss school; Luigi Parrilli, an Italian baron, and Gero V. S. Gaevernitz, a naturalized American of German origin, a friend and invaluable unofficial aide of Mr. Dulles.

Mr. Dulles, the wartime chief in Europe of the Office of Strategic Services, conducted his operations from Bern.

While he was wondering whether Wolff would escape alive from his encounter with Himmler and Kaltenbrunner, he received a message from Washington on April 21 ordering him to discontinue his contacts with the Germans. The military men did not believe the Germans would surrender on terms acceptable to the Allies and referred to complications with the Russians.

## En Route to Surrender

Mr. Dulles said he could only carry out orders and, while preparing to do so, he received a telephone call from Major Waibel informing him that General Wolff and one of Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff's staff officers, Lieut. Col. Viktor von Schweinitz, were en route to Switzerland to surrender. Von Vietinghoff was commander of the Wehrmacht in Italy.

Mr. Dulles radioed Field Marshal Alexander, who immediately contacted the Allied headquarters requesting reconsideration. The German emissaries arrived with powers to negotiate but Mr. Dulles had to play for time.

On April 27 Mr. Dulles received instructions to proceed. Field Marshal Alexander was directed to make arrangements to receive the Germans at his Caserta headquarters.

At the British General's request, Mr. Gaevernitz accompanied the German envoys to Caserta, where he played an important role in convincing them to sign the surrender documents.

A difficult task still lay ahead: informing the German troops through their own leaders. This meant that the emissaries had to be passed secretly via France, neutral Switzerland and German-controlled Austria to Bolzano.

The final part of the journey had to be made through territory honeycombed by the Gestapo and threatened by partisan bands. The Gestapo had orders to arrest the emissaries when they crossed into Austria. Wolff sent a car to the frontier and took them over the Alps.